

TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO†

EXCERPTS FROM OUR STATE MEDICAL JOURNAL

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From Some Editorial Notes:

Medical Defense and Insurance Companies.—In spite of numerous items in the *Journal* explaining, as was thought, carefully and clearly the attitude of the State Society in the case of a member who holds indemnity insurance and is sued, the situation seems to be vague in some minds, as will appear from a communication from Orange County, which see elsewhere. In the first place, the State Society's legal department is on the friendliest terms with all the insurance companies, and we work together when circumstances warrant it. No member need take out insurance unless he fears that some time or other a judgment by a jury may be given against him, or he may be grossly careless and create a situation which will require him to compromise by a money payment. The State Society will fight all suits against members and pay all court costs if they have no insurance; if they have insurance, the member may choose whether the State Society shall protect him or whether the insurance company shall do it, and if he elects to have the insurance company appear for him, and if we think that their attorney has not enough experience in this work to do it right, our own attorneys will assist in the case. Nine times out of ten, or more, it is not at all necessary for more than one attorney to spend time on a case; in the early stages, it is never necessary. If the holder of indemnity insurance does not notify the company immediately he is threatened or sued, he violates a clause in his policy, thereby canceling the policy, and the money he has paid for premiums is thrown away. . . .

Medical Defense.—The map of California shows the location of all suits filed and gives an explanation of the marks in the counties.

There have been three (3) judgments against members in seven (7) years.

The total amount of these judgments was \$3,960.

The cost of the work for the first five (5) years was	\$13,323.07
for the last two (2) years.....	\$16,157.04

Total.....	\$29,480.11
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From an Original Article on "A Water-Borne Epidemic of Typhoid Fever at Santa Barbara," by J. C. Geiger, M. D., Assistant Director of the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, California State Board of Health, Berkeley, California.—Pursuant to instructions received from the Secretary of the California State Board of Health, an investigation of a number of cases of typhoid fever, occurring in Santa Barbara, was carried on by the Bureau of Communicable Diseases, the source of infection of the outbreak not having been determined. Coöperation had been previously asked of the State Board of Health by Dr. R. F. Winchester, Health Officer of Santa Barbara.

At our initial conference, Doctor Winchester informed me that there were in Santa Barbara at that time a number of suspected cases of typhoid fever, the diagnosis of the majority being somewhat in doubt. He also stated that some of the cases had not been reported to his office.

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† This column strives to mirror the work and aims of colleagues who bore the brunt of Association activities some twenty-five years ago. It is hoped that such presentation will be of interest to both old and new members.

BOARD OF MEDICAL EXAMINERS OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA†

By CHARLES B. PINKHAM, M. D.

Secretary-Treasurer

Board Proceedings

At a regular meeting of the Board of Medical Examiners, held in Los Angeles, February 24 to 28, approximately seventy-five applicants wrote the examination, two of whom were applicants for drugless practitioners' certificates; the rest were graduates of approved medical schools.

Changes were made in the status of the following licentiates:

LICENSES RESTORED

Hugo W. Foss, licensed restored on February 28, 1941, and placed on probation for five years, without narcotic privileges.

Matthew J. Marmillion, license restored on February 27, 1941, and placed on probation for five years.

LICENSES REVOKED

Samuel D. Barnes, alleged illegal operation; license revoked on February 27, 1941.

Frederick M. Rossiter, charged with alleged illegal operation; license revoked on February 27, 1941.

John Jerome Tobinski, charged with alleged illegal operation; license revoked on February 28, 1941.

News

"Appointments to State boards, announced today by the office of Governor Olson, included: Dr. K. Chester Gummess of Los Angeles, medical examiners, term ending on January 15, 1945, succeeding Dr. William H. Geistweit, Jr., term expired. . . ." (United Press dispatch, dated Sacramento, February 17, and printed in the *San Francisco Chronicle*, February 18, 1941.)

"Dr. Philip K. Gilman, professor of surgery at Stanford University, is the newly elected president of the Pacific Coast Surgical Association. . . . Besides Doctor Gilman, president, other officers selected include: Dr. William J. Norris of Los Angeles, vice-president; Dr. R. D. Forbes, Seattle abdominal surgeon, second vice-president; and Dr. Frederick Reichert, professor of neurosurgery at Stanford, secretary." (Los Angeles Times, February 22, 1941.)

"One of the special funds, for example, is the medical examiners' fund, administered by the Board of Medical Examiners. It collects license fees from doctors, spends the money for the regulation of medical practice in the state. If the medical examiners have enough money saved up and need an extra filing clerk to handle the increase in medical records, should the finance department budget sleuths have the right to tell this board that it can't hire the clerk because the general fund is broke? Most of the budget men themselves don't think so, and certainly no doctor would approve of such 'meddling' in the profession's affairs. . . ." (Sacramento Union, February 7, 1941.)

"The Board of Supervisors late yesterday appointed Dr. Thomas D. Wyatt county physician and health officer by a 3 to 2 vote. He will replace Dr. O. J. Hansen, who has

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† The office addresses of the California State Board of Medical Examiners are printed in the roster on advertising page 6.